

Part 3 -- Remarks

This Amendment and Response is responsive to the office action mailed April 20, 2004. In that office action, correction to the title was requested; claims 1-5, 8-12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hideki (JP 2001083208); and claims 6, 7 and 13 were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 16-20 have been withdrawn from consideration as being nonelected claims.

Reconsideration of these objections and rejections is respectfully requested, with respect to the pending claims 1-15.

Specification Correction

The title of the invention has been amended as suggested by Examiner. The acceptable nature of the title should be apparent by examination of the markings shown in Part 1.

Telephone Interview

The undersigned wishes to thank the examiner for discussing the present application on the telephone on July 16, 2004 and July 19, 2004. In our conversation the issue of whether or not the Hideki patent was prior art was discussed. The present application was filed on December 6, 2000. Hideki was published on March 30, 2001, and had not yet issued into a patent as of that date.

Since Hideki was not published or granted as a patent more than one year prior to the filing of the present application, Hideki does not appear to be prior art with respect to the present application.

Anticipation Rejection

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-12, 14 and 15 as anticipated by Hideki is respectfully requested. Since Hideki does not appear to be a prior art reference with respect to the present application, Hideki cannot be used to reject claims

in the present application. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-12, 14 and 15 be withdrawn.

Allowable Claims

The examiner's attention to claims 6, 7 and 13 is appreciated, however in view of the inapplicability of Hideki it is believed that all of the pending claims are allowable and that claims 6, 7 and 13 therefore do not need to be amended into independent form.

Conclusion

As a result of the amendment and remarks set forth above, it is believed that all pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss any issues which may inhibit the immediate allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7-19-04

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